

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9 and 12 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 9 and 12 are amended and Claims 2 and 8 are canceled by the present amendment. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 8 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,035,047 to Harigane et al. (herein "Harigane"); and Claims 3, 4 and 9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

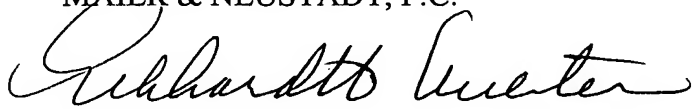
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claims 3 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 3 and 9 and Claim 4 depending therefrom be withdrawn.

Similarly, Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate subject matter of Claims 3 and 9, respectively, that was indicated as allowable. Harigane does not disclose or suggest these features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1 and 12 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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